

WESSEX NEWS

VOL. 1 No. 12

JUNE 23RD, 1936

PRICE TWOPENCE

STUDENT ORDER STUDIERENDER

In the last issue of *Wessex News* certain suggestions were made for alterations in the lecture system of this college. The changes may appear at first sight to be rather revolutionary and apparently are sufficiently new to be completely misunderstood. But mere novelty should not be and is not an adequate ground for total rejection.

The fundamental principal underlying the teaching in a University is not that the students should be crammed to obtain a University degree, nor does a University even exist so that students may obtain degrees, but that knowledge may be gained. Many students use their acquired knowledge to obtain a standardised recognition which will indicate to the outside world what *degree* has been reached; and with this qualification they hope to sell their services. Any emphasis upon marketable value of the graduate necessitates the cramming of the under-graduate and the destruction of the University basis. This does not mean that a marketable value should not be obtained but that the emphasis should not be upon that alone.

Lecturers do not in fact act as teachers in the narrow school sense; for nobody could reach a degree standard merely by attendance at lectures; but they act as guides to the student in his desire to learn. This means that the responsibility for learning is thrown upon the students; although the plan for his learning is drawn up for him and he is bound to it.

The alterations proposed would go but one step further and put the onus of arranging a course also upon the student, whilst offering him access to the advice of his tutors and lecturers. The course he would plan for himself by obtaining the regulations for degrees, and the list of lectures to be given in the various departments. He would then know what was required of him and what was offered to him, and in conjunction with his tutor he would make his decisions.

The sole responsibility for the course does not lie with the student however, for the lecturers have to prepare a scheme for the session from which a choice may be made; and therein lies their contribution. These lectures must contain their "guidance to study" for the degree course. There would be just as much "guidance" available to the student as there is now, but the decision to act upon it or even to take it would rest entirely with him.

This means then that there would be no compulsory lectures, no rolls and no careers endangered artificially through non-attendance. But if a student failed to attain a required standard of knowledge he would have only himself to blame.

Arising from this scheme, but not necessarily dependent upon it, is the suggestion that lectures should be open to all. Those in University life, who have acquired a certain knowledge, find invariably that there are no well defined boundaries to their own subject, but that in pursuit of knowledge they push those boundaries further away and even find themselves within the boundaries of another branch of learning. Students, who are only different from professors in that their search for knowledge has been of shorter duration, tend to encircle themselves with departmental walls and thus at the outset to debar themselves from achieving the object of University education. By having the opportunity of hearing lectures upon other subjects than those which come within their immediate scope they will be real students.

The Germans differentiate between a "student" who is a person registered at a University, and "one who studies." We have no single words to show that subtle difference, but these suggestions are obviously only of value to a "University" and to "those who study" and not to the "cramming institute" and the "student." But we are aspiring to University status and we need not wait for more buildings and a charter before we develop our internal system.

The criticism which is made about this paper shows only too clearly that Arts subjects have been reserved for Arts students and that they know nothing about the sciences; and similarly that Science students finished with the Arts upon the receipt of their matriculation certificate. This is surely a most lamentable state of affairs and one which can be remedied so long as the members of the college themselves are any good. If the opportunity is there, failure would be an indictment of this generation and show us where we really stand.

K. A. A. Cottam.

We understand that the Secretary of the Public Lectures Committee is communicating directly with the Students' Council with a request for concrete suggestions on this subject.—Ed.

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WESSEX NEWS

Tuesday, June 23rd, 1936.

Offices:

STUDENTS' UNION, UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE, SOUTHAMPTON.

Editor: Alastair Geddes.

Sports Editor: D. Tyerman, Esq.

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EDITORIAL

For the first time since we began publication, our Leading Article has been written by a student holding no official position in the College.

In our first number we stated that we hoped to publish a weekly leader from a distinguished authority. No. 12 sees no departure from this intention but an extension, and we feel, a good extension, of the aims which these high sounding words implied. Considered opinion is not the monopoly of the Senior Common Room or of Council and when ideas are offered which present possibilities and provoke thought it is our duty and our pleasure to publish them, no matter whose the authorship.

The correspondence received and the footnote to our leader of this week are sufficient to show that Mr. Cottam has started a discussion which, however the issue is decided, must have some effect upon student thought and may affect student life. And, although he himself may dislike being called a distinguished authority, there is no doubt as to the worthiness of his article to stand beside those already published as a contribution to the idea of a university.

That, to the ordinary student, this idea is no longer a purely abstract philosophical conception but a frequent topic of serious conversation cannot fail to have a good effect on the mind of the College, and *Wessex News* is proud to be able to contribute towards such an end.

* * *

1. The Editor is not responsible for the views expressed in signed articles.

2. Correspondents are asked to make their letters as brief and to the point as possible.

3. The Editor regrets that, owing to lack of space, it is impossible to print Society reports unless they have genuine news value.

Joint Meeting of S.C.'s

FUTURE OF WESSEX NEWS.

The first joint meeting of the incoming and retiring Councils was held on Friday last when the following officers for next session were elected:-

Secretary, A. W. Ridgewell.
Asst. Secretary, Miss J. West.
Junior Treasurer, B. W. Millington.
Senior Treasurer, Mr. A. V. P. Thackeray.

Auditor, Mr. A. E. Grant.
Recorder, H. Jagger.

Returning Officer, R. E. Wile. The President gave a ruling that the constitution required the President of a Union Society to be a full member of the Union and that therefore Mr. D. Cecil Williams was ineligible for the office of President of the Choral and Orchestral Society. This was in no way a censure upon either the Choral Society or upon Mr. Cecil Williams who has rendered valuable service to the Union since his connection with the Society. Council resolved that a Bye Election should be held.

A questionnaire had been circulated by Sheffield University requesting Students' Councils to discuss the clause in the constitution of the National Union of Students which forbids action of a political kind. The Legal Advisor interpreted the clause very broadly so that the N.U.S. were almost prohibited from taking effective action on any matter. It was suggested by Sheffield that the clause be revised to allow of political matters being discussed. Council instructed the President to support a motion that the clause be revised to allow of action in political matters so long as they had no party bias.

The position of *Wessex News* next session was discussed with special regard to the financial strain of the undertaking. Council decided to continue publication next session if some means could be found of increasing revenue and decreasing cost. It was pointed out that there are a number of students who do not buy a copy and many suggestions were made for satisfying their demands. It would be a great help if a number of people would submit constructive criticism in writing to the Secretary of the S. C.

Students going down will probably welcome the opportunity of having "Wessex News" to keep them in touch with Southampton.

Subscription: 6/- a year, 2/- a term.

Sign the list on S.C. Board; give your home address if your future is at present uncertain. You can change later when you have landed that job.

New Rules for Going-Down Early

SATISFACTORY REASON REQUIRED.

New regulations have recently been made concerning going-down leave at the end of term. Previously, such leave has always been granted unless a tutor had reason to detain a student. Under the new ruling permission to go down early will not be granted unless adequate reason is given to the tutor for so doing.

It is considered that, in a residential college, halls of residence are centres of corporate life and not just boarding houses, and that colleges do not exist solely for the purpose of taking courses of study. The end of term in particular furnishes an opportunity for the unhindered pursuit of activities not strictly academic upon which the student ought to seize. Also, in the case of the Summer Term, Sessionals are now held in the penultimate week that papers may be marked and tutorial meetings held before the end of term and work for the Long Vacation thereby set on a firmer basis.

The possible uses to which students might put the last week of term have yet to be fully explored; it might be used, for example, along the lines suggested in this week's leading article. Perhaps future "last weeks" will be looked forward to, not for their proximity to going-down, but as a particularly valuable element in student life.

We would sum up the regulations as follows: formerly, a tutor gave a student permission to go down early if there was no reason why he should not; now, a tutor will not give a student permission to go down early unless there is reason why he should.

We hope that the recent heavy rains will make it unnecessary for the Women's Boat Club to buy a tide table after all.

Finalists were among those involved in the serious internal disorder of last week. The origin of the outbreak has not yet been established.

TRIUMPHANT BOATS.

President and Soccer Captain in Crew.

(By Our Special Correspondent).

The sporting versatility of Jack Goss and Ted Bullock enabled the Boat Club to maintain their unbeaten record on Sunday afternoon, when their crew defeated a crew of the recently formed Women's Boat Club in what, we imagine, was their first race. The ladies were given the advantage of two coxes and two oars each, but, in spite of this, and Goss's chivalrous action in crabbing at every opportunity, the W.B.C. was heavily defeated after Bullock had shown that the shortest distance between two points was a series of sinuous curves.

Crews: Boat Club: Byrno, 10st. 0lbs, bow; Goss 11st. 8lbs, President and 2; Campbell 12st. 2lbs., 3; Charnock 9st. 10lbs., stroke; Coxswain and Captain, A.F.C., Bullock 10st. 0lbs.

W.B.C.: Misses Wilkinson 1st. 7lbs., bow; Still 7st. 7lbs, stroke.

ADMISSION TO THE LIDO.

Old habits revisiting the Lido during the recent hot spell were somewhat surprised to find the student price of 4d. for admission no longer in force. The Manager states that a reduced rate under present regulations is only available to clubs having a club night every week for which they pay a 5/- reservation fee, and affiliated to the Southern Counties League.

Editor's Note:

We understand that the Students' Council is making enquiries on this matter.

Mackenzie found a sixpence in the Joint Common Room last Saturday. He has been absent from College all this week.

THE FLAGRANT MOMENT.

Long Vacation.

Some will go to Surrey hills, some will go to Sussex downs, some will go where gloomy mills idle stand in northern towns, some will go across the sea, some will stay beside the Test, some away for c'er will be, but for those the Vac is best, who can rest from labours term, rest on laurels, take their ease, while the others still must earn by their efforts 'Lond.' degrees. Some will make for mounts in Wales, others go to Vectian charms, some will fare to Cumbrian dales, some sink into Morpheus' arms by the lapping salt sea waters, well-bronzed sons and well-tanned daughters but my Vac would better be, if I'd only my degree!

Sympathy Hardt-Veldt.

ATHLETIC UNION.

The First Semi-Final of the Year!

Women's Tennis Win at Bristol

Swimming Close Second in U.A.U. Championships

WOMEN'S TENNIS.

5-4 Win at Bristol.

Women's tennis won its second Inter-Varsity match at Bristol under gruelling conditions on Saturday.

The team as a whole played remarkably steadily and showed an excellent fighting spirit.

Clare and Girdlestone beat Bristol first and third pairs in straight sets, but had a hard game against the second couple, whose net-play made them lose the first set, after which a change of tactics to lobbing won the next two sets 6-1, 6-2.

Pavard and Foster, our second pair, had bad luck in losing a three-set match, 4-6 in the final set against Bristol first. Bristol's second pair proved too strong for them, winning in straight sets, but they beat Bristol third in a close match 6-4, 4-6, 8-6.

Comben and Bethell played a very plucky game and showed remarkable staying powers, playing three three-set matches, just losing to Bristol first and second, and beating Bristol third 6-2, 2-6, 6-2.

Therefore we now play the SEMI-FINAL against NOTTINGHAM at BIRMINGHAM on WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24th.

SWIMMING:

FINE PERFORMANCE!

The third Annual U.A.U. Long-Distance Swimming Championship was decided under ideal weather conditions in the River Thames at Reading, on Saturday, June 20th, over a mile course, finishing at the University Boat House. Teams were entered from Birmingham, Durham, Reading, Sheffield and Southampton. Each team consisted of four men the first three counting towards points.

The teams were lined across the motionless river and from the start Russell was carried well ahead by his easy rhythmic stroke. Durham's first man was also well up and until the last twenty yards these two had the race to themselves. Morris, while he used the crawl, remained with the crowd but on changing to the trudgen he got away to bridge the large gap between the leaders and Durham's second man. Shepherd and Owen did not occupy prominent positions at any stage of the race and their performances would have been vastly improved if they had given some time to training during the previous weeks. Russell swam magnificently considering that he is not

used to fresh water and that throughout the current season he has only engaged in short distances. To have been beaten by only a few feet in his first race of this kind is a really creditable achievement. Durham's three scoring men filled first, fourth and sixth places, whilst our men finished second, third and ninth respectively. Durham therefore won the Championship with Southampton a close second.

Results:

- 1 Durham University (1, 4, 6) 11 pts.
- 2 Southampton University (2, 3, 9) 14 pts.
- 3 Birmingham University (5, 7, 10) 22 pts.

A full list of competitors and times will be published in a forthcoming issue of the New University.

After the race Reading University entertained the teams to a tea at which an official of the U.A.U. suggested that the Southern Universities, namely Bristol, Exeter, Reading and Southampton, should hold friendly matches among themselves with a view to increasing the interest of these Universities in the U.A.U. Swimming Championships.

On Saturday there will be a match against Peter Symonds' School at Winchester, at 2.30 p.m.

THE ITCHEN SWIM.

For Dr. Potter's Cup.

(Present holder: H. J. Morris).

This race from Mansbridge to the Mill is open to all members of College and will be swum on Wednesday, June 24th, at 6 p.m. A record entry is expected from men and women this year.

MEN'S TENNIS v BRISTOL.

Saturday the Men's Tennis Team played their second U.A.U. fixture against Bristol at Bristol. This was the deciding contest in the group, as each team had previously beaten Exeter. After the first three matches the prospects of a University College victory seemed hopeful. Our first pair easily accounted for Bristol's third pair 6-2, 6-1. Although the opposition was not very strong the Captain showed signs of a return to form after a long period of indifferent play. Meanwhile, our third pair, who were playing extremely well, just lost to Bristol's first pair 6-8, 4-6, whilst the second pair, after a long match, also lost to their opposite numbers 7-5, 3-6, 5-7. The second

set of matches proved disastrous. Our first pair were easily beaten by Bristol's second pair 2-6, 4-6. A possible explanation of this defeat may be the fact that Shaikh was hit in the eye by a ball and it seemed to affect the timing of his drives which found the net with monotonous regularity. Our second pair lost to Bristol's first 3-6, 1-6, their previous match seeming to have exhausted them, whilst our third pair failed to maintain their good form, possibly on account of the heat, and lost to Bristol's third 4-6, 6-8. This gave Bristol a winning lead of 5-1. After tea the remaining matches were commenced, but as a result had been obtained there was little interest in them.

This defeat again emphasised the limitation of the lobbing powers of our team. The only effective way to counter-attack a pair in possession of the net is by means of a good length lob and only one member of the team is able to exploit this shot and even he was guilty of presenting the opposition with one or two easy smashes.

Thus U.C.S. must again look forward to next year for U.A.U. honours with the advantage that we shall still possess four of this year's team. Some consolation may be derived from the fact that Bristol are firm favourites for the U.A.U. title. They are worthy champions of the Southern division.

The men's team offer their sincere congratulations to the women's team on their splendid victory on Saturday, thus placing them in the semi-final which is to be played on Wednesday. One can not but admire their team spirit and tenacity on the court. Well done and good luck!

ATHLETIC CLUB

v. Southampton Amateur Athletic Club.

Wallace wins Relay and Match.

The College were successful in defeating the Town Club after a close and interesting meeting. Wallace was again able to pull off his usual double, winning the 100 yds. in 10.4 secs. and the 220 in 22 9/10. Atkinson ran a nicely judged race to win the 880 yds. in 2 mins 10 4/5 secs. He was content to let his opponents set the pace for the first lap, moved up at the 680 yd. mark to second place and finally timed his final sprint just right to win by 3 yds. In the 440 yds. he put up his best performance this year at this distance. After being crowded into fourth

place at the first bend—Robson took the lead over the first 200 yds.—he opened up along the back straight to challenge Patchett (S.A.A.C.) who was now in the lead. He was unable, however, to hold Patchett over the last 50 yds. and finished second, three yards behind the winner, whose time was 53.1 secs. McMullen and Hemming were without any serious competition in the High Jump—both clearing 5ft. 3ins. before retiring. Robson and McMullen were also able to win the long-jump as they liked, were both also in fine form. Robson cleared 19ft. 9ins.—his best performance ever—and McMullen improved his season's best to 19ft. 5ins. The 120 yds. Hurdles, after being re-run, due to one or two unfortunate incidents causing the first race to be declared void, was won by McMullen, who hurdled in very nice style, although the time 18 2/5 was not very fast. Moore and Robson pluckily endured the heat in the 3 miles in the absence of the College first and second stangs, but were outclassed. In the 1 mile, Evans and Newton-Smith were up against better men too and finished 3rd and 4th. The winner of both mile and 3 miles was Bryant (S.A.A.C.) the local champion.

Just before the relay the score was U.C.S. 46, S.A.A.C. 43, the relay counting 3-0. Evans started with the 880 and handed over to Atkinson about 1 sec. behind the visiting runner after a fast half-mile. Atkinson and Moir were unable to gain on their opponents but lost no ground. Lauder (S.A.A.C.) took over about 15 yds. in front of Wallace and it looked as if the relay was lost. Lauder however took things a little too easily over the first 100 yds. and Wallace running all out caught up to within three yards at the bend. Entering the straight he gradually crept up to Lauder—now going all out—and was able to pass him in the last 10 yds. to win by two feet, thus making sure of the victory for College. On Tuesday the team visits Portsmouth for the return match with the R.N. and R.M. The Inter-Hall Athletic Match will probably be held on Friday 26th, in the evening.

Foreign Affairs

"Matric. slaughter" was the term used by students of Bombay University on Monday in last week when it was announced that, of the 28,000 entrants for the matriculation (entrants' examinations), 17,000 had been failed, partly because the papers had been made stiffer this year. As a result, a crowd of protesting students and sympathisers invaded the Convocation Hall and forced the Senate to abandon their meeting and leave the hall amidst scenes of disorder.

We sincerely hope that no such action will be considered necessary at South Kensington in July.

Correspondence

The Editor of Wessex News,
Sir,

Admirable as is the existence of a Correspondence Column as a forum of discussion, the opportunities it offers are open to the dangers of over-enthusiastic criticism, the possible consequences of which have not been fully considered. An example is given by a letter in your last week's issue. I have no criticism to make of the sentiments expressed and recognise that the use of your columns may be a most effective way of mobilising public opinion in such a way as to prevent future occurrences of such undesirable incidents as are therein condemned. But I would like to correct the impression that the exaggeration of that letter would seem to have given. Personally I have never been debarrd from making full use of the Joint Common Room by the presence of "couples entwined in one another's arms"—there are at most two or three couples in this College exhibiting such bad taste and they neither comprise nor represent the best part of this College—and I feel called upon to protest that such a letter, misrepresenting so badly as it does the state of affairs that prevails in the Common Rooms, should have been published.

I am, Sir,

Yours truly,
Colin Oig.

The Editor of Wessex News,
Dear Sir,

May I suggest at the end of the old term further discussion amongst those concerned of the formation of an International Relations Club to be put into practice next term. Our College has been distinguished by the presence of foreign students under the British Council Scheme. As they don't stay for a whole session it is our duty to bring them into contact with English life inside and—which is perhaps more important—outside College. This might imply dropping the English habit of reserve but it would be beneficial to both sides. U.C.S. would be well known in England and abroad for its international relations and could consequently draw still more students from

England and abroad. As practical suggestions I would propose: regular functions (socials, visits, rambles, lectures, debates) to be arranged by the Club; President of this Club should be on the S.C.; Co-operation with the Staff, especially the tutor for foreign students. Members of Staff could provide the relations to bodies, societies and individuals in Southampton. That this would mean a good advertisement for College may be mentioned in passing. We need that terribly! And what about L.N.U. Wouldn't it be advisable instead of giving lectures of a sometimes arbitrary nature to start some practical work. The world is needing that to-day.

Yours sincerely,

Kong.

The Editor of Wessex News,
Sir,

Caligula's letter of criticism on Mr. Cottam's excellent lecture suggestions might develop into a dangerous sentiment if left unanswered. There are unfortunately, too many Caligulas typen this College to-day, and openly to acclaim such an attitude to College life would do much to spread the dry rot already infesting the student body.

It is unfortunate that Caligula and his sympathisers were not given to understand before entering College that although the getting of a degree is his ultimate object, it is not his sole interest, and that the benefit derived from the social life at a University is of as much value as his degree.

We hear a lot about the corporate body, but if this is to be a reality, then perhaps the interviewing committees might impress upon intending students the necessity for combining the academic with the social life. Until the student body in its entirety realises this fact we cannot hope ever to attain the dignity of the University of Wessex.

Let us hope that Caligula will soon awaken to the realisation that such schemes as Mr. Cottam suggests will be of far more benefit to him in the end than his prudish ideas on the object of a University education.

I am, etc.,

V. G. R.

A member of the Chemistry Department informs us that an appeal is to be made to the examiners not to set Matriculation papers for Finals in future.

It is suggested that an addendum to the Advice to incoming women residents should point out that it is inadvisable to search for a bathing costume before an open window.

The eight members of the Rambling Club who went hiking last Sunday broke up into four parties—not in biological sequence.

Terminalia

The Story of a Vigil.

Now the time of the midsummer vigil drew near, that it behove all men to toil, lest they should be unable to fulfil their tasks. And a certain young man took his book and got him into the garden, there to read and study. But the sun waxed hot, and the small birds sang in the trees, and all was still as he lay on the grass. Now he was no true clerk, and loved not his book, and ere long his eyes grew heavy, and he slept. And as he slept he dreamed that he was exceeding small, and lo, he walked in a great green forest: and the forest was the grass of the garden: and therein he met many beasts, fierce and fell. For the emmets were as great as bandogs and did attack him right grimly: but he fled and escaped them. And he passed beneath a daisy, a spider met him, but he shouted and the loathly beast turned away. Likewise he met many another creeping thing, for they do abound in the garden.

Then at last there met him one of the beasts that men call Sun Beetles: which, if they be killed, it will assuredly rain. And it was in bigness as a bull, a bull of the Devon breed, and lifted its head and uttered boasting words, saying: "I am king of all the Sun Beetles. If thou canst kill me, it will rain greatly upon the land, so that the houses will fall asunder and vanish, for they are but weak and slight."

Now when the youth heard this, he desired vehemently to achieve this deed, for the thought that there would then be no vigil, and his tormentors would be drowned: and he himself would win great glory. So he grappled with the beast, great and fell though it was. And it struggled long, and wounded him sore: and it was clad in armour of black and gold, but at last he prevailed over it, and throttled it, so great was his will. So it lay dead, and he rejoiced greatly.

Now the sky became overcast, and there were lightnings with thunder. And still he rejoiced greatly, for he was sure that the Beetle spoke truth.

And then the rain fell like a wall, and he awoke. And lo, it was rain indeed, and he was very wet. But the houses were not swept away, and his comrades sought to cheer him: for they said: "Rejoice, tomorrow is the vigil."

And he was crushed with grief.

J. F. G.

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Calendar

Tuesday, June 23rd.

"Great English Divines": Lecture IV by Prof. V. de S. Pinto, at 11 a.m. in English S. R. Halls and Refectory Comm: at 2.30.

Exhibition of Handicraft. Men's, Taunton's School; Women's, College.

Afternoon. Violin Class work, Handicraft Shed.

Historical Assn.: W. Hebditch, Esq., B.A., on "A Character that Chaucer missed," at 5.30 in History S. R.

Wednesday, June 24th.

Cricket v Queen Mary College, home.

Men's and Women's Tennis v Staff, home.

Thursday, June 25th.

Southampton Gardeners' Soc.: Rose Show, at 7.30.

Friday, June 26th.

Research Comm: at 2.30.

Sunday, June 28th.

Collegiate Service at S. Mary's, S. Stoneham, at 9.45. The Rev. A. V. Billen, D.D., Head of Wellington School.

Monday, June 29th.

Gramophone Club. Going-down Concert, at 1.20 in Music St. Faculty Board Meetings.

ELECTION RESULTS.

Common Rooms Committee:

Women: M. N. Taylor, Miss E. F. Stallard.

Men: G. A. Hemming. The other Men's Representative to be appointed by the Students' Council.

STOP PRESS

NEW WARDEN FOR CONNAUGHT HALL.

It has just been announced that the Reverend F. C. Tindall, B.D., has been appointed Warden of Connaught Hall. Mr. Tindall has been Vice-Principal of Chichester Theological College since 1928. He was educated at King's College, London, and, before he took up the teaching of Theology, was doing parochial work.

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